

APPENDIX B

2013 Idaho Elk Hunter Opinion Survey

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

600 South Walnut/P.O. Box 25
Boise, Idaho 83707

C.L. "Butch" Otter / Governor
Virgil Moore / Director

April 2013

Name
Address
City, ST ZIP

Control#:

Dear Idaho Elk Hunter,

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game is revising the Statewide Elk Management Plan. This process started with a Phase I survey to ask the opinions and attitudes of Idaho elk hunters. In June 2012, in cooperation with the University of Idaho, the survey was mailed to Idaho elk hunters. The survey was mailed to a random sample of 6,160 general elk hunters statewide. The elk hunters were asked a variety of questions about their preferences and motivations for hunting elk in Idaho. We heard that most Idaho hunters would like to be able to hunt in multiple zones. The "2012 Elk Hunter Survey Results" can be seen on our website on the Elk Management page under "More Information" at <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/wildlife/?getpage=324>.

The following survey is Phase 2 of our study. You were randomly selected to receive this survey. This survey deals specifically with two different options for expanding your general elk hunting opportunity, to allow you to hunt in 2 or more zones. Your input is very important to determine which option we move forward with in 2014. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey on the following pages and return it in the enclosed prepaid envelope by **May 10th, 2013**.

Thank you for your time and interest in Elk Hunting and Management in Idaho.

Sincerely,



Toby Boudreau,
State Deer and Elk Coordinator
208-334-2920
Toby.boudreau@idfg.idaho.gov

Enclosure

1. About how many years have you hunted in Idaho? (Please write number of years.)

_____ YEARS

2. How often do you hunt for each of the following game species in Idaho?

<u>GAME SPECIES</u>	How often do you hunt the following species in Idaho? (Please circle one response for each species)			
I. Black Bear	NEVER	SOME YEARS	MOST YEARS	EVERY YEAR
J. Moose, Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goat (<i>once in a lifetime</i>)	NEVER	SOME YEARS	MOST YEARS	EVERY YEAR
K. Mountain Lion	NEVER	SOME YEARS	MOST YEARS	EVERY YEAR
L. Mule Deer	NEVER	SOME YEARS	MOST YEARS	EVERY YEAR
M. Pronghorn	NEVER	SOME YEARS	MOST YEARS	EVERY YEAR
N. Upland Game/ Birds	NEVER	SOME YEARS	MOST YEARS	EVERY YEAR
O. White-tailed Deer	NEVER	SOME YEARS	MOST YEARS	EVERY YEAR
P. Gray Wolf	NEVER	SOME YEARS	MOST YEARS	EVERY YEAR

Now, some questions about your Idaho Elk hunting experiences and preferences.

3. About how many years have you hunted **ELK** in Idaho? (Please enter number of years.)

_____ YEARS

4. Please check those years that you did hunt ELK in Idaho during the past 7 years.
(Please check **all** that apply.)

☐ 2012 ☐ 2011 ☐ 2010 ☐ 2009 ☐ 2008 ☐ 2007 ☐ 2006

5. If you did not hunt Elk in Idaho for 2 or more years during the past 7 years (2006 through 2012), please tell us why. (Please circle **all** that apply.)

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| A. POOR HEALTH | H. ACCESS LIMITATIONS |
| B. WORK SCHEDULE | I. THE SEASON LENGTH |
| C. FAMILY OBLIGATIONS | J. THE TIMING OF THE SEASON |
| D. LOW ELK NUMBERS | K. TOO MUCH OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE ACTIVITY |
| E. I HUNTED OTHER GAME SPECIES | L. TOO MANY HUNTERS |
| F. NO HUNTING PARTNER | M. OTHER (<i>please explain</i>) |
| G. I COULDN'T AFFORD IT | _____ |

6. Of those you circled in Question 5, which ONE was the most important reason you DID NOT hunt Elk during those years.

ENTER ONE LETTER (A – M) FROM THE LIST IN QUESTION 5: ____

Expanding Elk Hunting Opportunity to Multiple Zones

In the statewide elk hunter survey last year, elk hunters were asked if they were interested in the opportunity to hunt in 2 zones in a given year to harvest a single elk. Eighty-two percent said “yes”, they would be interested in the opportunity. We also asked if they would be willing to pay an extra \$30 for residents and \$100 for nonresidents to have the additional opportunity. Sixty-seven percent of respondents said they would be willing to pay more for the added opportunity. We have developed 2 options to expand general elk hunting opportunity in Idaho. Please tell us what you think about the 2 options.

Option 1: 2-Zone Hunt – Allows you to hunt in 2 general elk zones with one elk tag.

- This tag would allow you to **harvest only one elk**.
- This would be available only in certain zones that are *meeting* or *exceeding* population goals for the upcoming hunting season.
 - The whole state would not be included. Please see Page 4, Question 8, for a list of proposed zones included for the 2014 hunting season.
- The zones available could change from year to year as elk numbers fluctuate.
- This tag would allow you the option of selecting a capped zone as one of the zones you could hunt in.
- The 2-zone option would cost hunters for the additional opportunity.
 - In addition to general elk tag fees, the cost would be \$30.00 for residents and \$100.00 for nonresidents.
- Hunters would be able to hunt in the open seasons for the 2 zones they choose.
- Any combination of A-tag and B-tag hunts from the available zones could be selected. (See Page 4, Question 8 for proposed zones for the 2014 hunting season.)
For example, in 2014 you could select:
 - A-tag Tex Creek and A-tag Bannock
 - B-tag Bear River and B-tag Boise River
 - A-tag Diamond Creek and B-tag McCall
- Hunters would be able to change their choices of 2 zones, before the season opens in either of the 2 zones.
- Hunters must use the weapon types that are legal during the season they are hunting. For example, the hunter must use archery equipment during archery season in that zone.
- Hunters who draw a controlled elk hunt tag would not be eligible to participate in the 2-zone hunt opportunity.

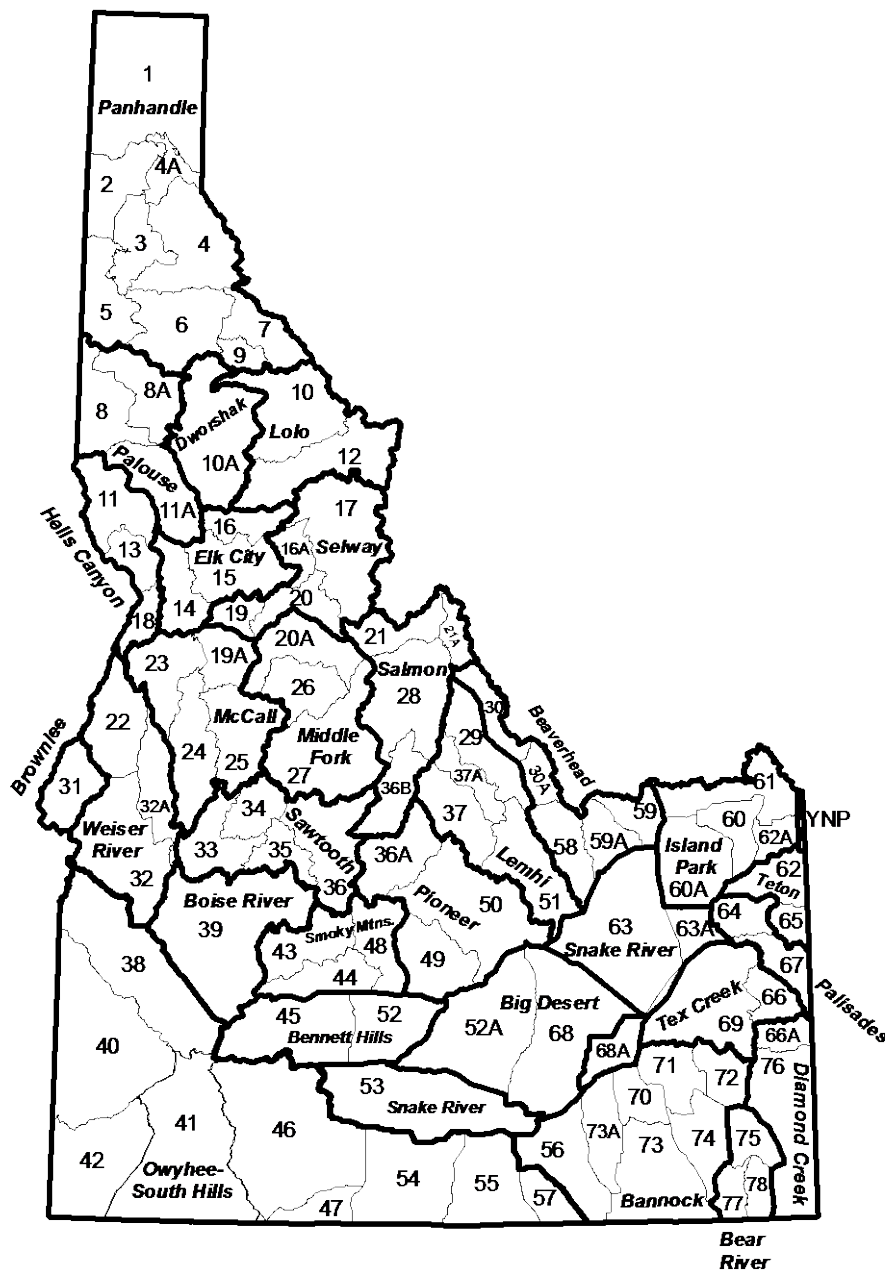
7. What is your opinion of the 2-Zone Option to expand elk hunter opportunity? (Please check *one*.)

EXTREMELY UNFAVORABLE	MODERATELY UNFAVORABLE	NO OPINION	MODERATELY FAVORABLE	HIGHLY FAVORABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The following are the zones that are *meeting* or *exceeding* objectives including some capped zones. Only these zones would be eligible for the 2-Zone Option for the 2014 hunting season.

8. Which zones would you consider hunting with the 2-Zone Option? (Please check *all* that apply.)

- ☐ Panhandle Zone
- ☐ Palouse Zone
- ☐ Elk City Zone
- ☐ Salmon Zone
- ☐ Weiser River Zone
- ☐ McCall Zone
- ☐ Lemhi Zone
- ☐ Beaverhead Zone
- ☐ Brownlee Zone
- ☐ Pioneer Zone
- ☐ Boise River Zone
- ☐ Smoky Mountains Zone
- ☐ Bennett Hills Zone
- ☐ Big Desert Zone
- ☐ Snake River Zone
- ☐ Island Park Zone
- ☐ Palisades Zone
- ☐ Teton Zone
- ☐ Tex Creek Zone
- ☐ Bannock Zone
- ☐ Bear River Zone
- ☐ Diamond Creek Zone



9. Of those zones listed above please pick the top 3 zones that you would potentially consider hunting in a 2-Zone option?

The following zones are NOT included in the 2-Zone Option:

Dworshak Zone, Lolo Zone, Selway Zone, Hells Canyon Zone, Middle Fork Zone, Sawtooth Zone and Owyhee-South Hills Zone.

Option 2: C-tag Option – Allows you to hunt in any of the designated C-tag units with one elk tag.

- This tag would allow you to **harvest only one elk**.
- Would apply only in units within zones that are *meeting* or *exceeding* population goals. The whole state would not be included.
 - Hunters would be allowed to hunt in any season within the C-tag units. Proposed units for the 2014 season are:
 - Units 1, 2, 3, 4, 4A, 6, 8A, 11A, 19A, 22, 23, 24, 25, 31, 32, 32A, 36A, 50, 52A, 53, 67, 68, 70, 71, 72, 73, 73A, 74.
 - For example, a person could hunt the archery A-tag in Unit 1, and then if unsuccessful, go to Unit 67 and hunt the rifle bull B-tag season.
- Capped zones would not be included in the list of available zones or units.
- The C-tag option would cost hunters for the additional opportunity.
 - In addition to general elk tag fees, the cost would be \$30.00 for residents and \$100.00 for nonresidents.
- Hunters may only hunt during the open season and with the weapon type allowed for the zone or units they are hunting in.
- Hunters would be able exchange their C-tag for an A-tag or B-tag until the season in any one of the zones or game management units within the C-tag has started.
- Hunters who draw a controlled elk hunt tag would not be eligible to participate in the C-tag opportunity.

10. What is your opinion of the C-tag Option to expand elk hunter opportunity? (Please check *one*.)

EXTREMELY UNFAVORABLE	MODERATELY UNFAVORABLE	NO OPINION	MODERATELY FAVORABLE	HIGHLY FAVORABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The following is a list of proposed Units that could be available for the C-tag Option for the 2014 hunting season.

11. Please check the Units that you would *most likely* hunt. (Please check *all* that apply.)

- ☐ UNITS 1, 2, 3, 4, 4A, 6 (Most of the Panhandle Zone)
- ☐ UNITS 8A, 11A (Part of the Palouse Zone)
- ☐ UNITS 22, 32, 32A (Weiser River Zone)
- ☐ UNITS 19A, 23, 24, 25 (McCall Zone)
- ☐ UNITS 31 (Brownlee Zone)
- ☐ UNITS 36A, 50 (Part of the Pioneer Zone)
- ☐ UNITS 52A, 68 (Big Desert Zone)
- ☐ UNITS 53 (Small part of the Snake River Zone)
- ☐ UNITS 67 (Part of the Palisades Zone)
- ☐ UNITS 70, 71, 72, 73, 73A, 74 (Bannock Zone)

These two options to increase elk hunting opportunity by allowing hunting in more than one zone may have unintended consequences, such as reducing the quality of the elk hunting experience. Crowding and increased harvest could occur in some general hunt zones. This might result in future restrictions to offset increased pressure.

Here are three examples to illustrate the possible range of impacts:

1. If Diamond Creek A-tag holders could also hunt on the Pioneer A-tag, few impacts are anticipated. These seasons are concurrent and both restricted to archery only. We do not expect an increase in the number of hunters.
2. If Diamond Creek A-tag holders could also hunt on the Tex Creek A-tag, we anticipate that crowding could be an issue. These zones offer different hunting opportunities at different times. We expect an increase in hunter numbers and harvest in both zones.
3. If hunters could use both A-tags and B-tags within one zone, we anticipate an increase in the number of hunters and harvest in that zone.

12. Would you be in favor of expanding your hunting opportunity into 2 or more zones if it might cause these zones to become more restrictive in the future (such as tag quotas, shortened seasons, etc.)? (Please check *one*.)

EXTREMELY UNFAVORABLE	MODERATELY UNFAVORABLE	NO OPINION	MODERATELY FAVORABLE	HIGHLY FAVORABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

13. Based on the descriptions of the two options, 2-Zone and C-tag, which would you be more likely to participate in? (Please pick *one* choice.)

- ☐ 2-ZONE OPTION ☐ C-TAG OPTION ☐ NEITHER

14. Do you think we should move forward with these options to hunt in multiple zones?

☐ YES

☐ NO

☐ NO OPINION

15. What weapon type(s) are you most likely to use while elk hunting? (Please choose **all** that apply.)

☐ RIFLE

☐ MUZZLELOADER

☐ ARCHERY

16. Do you have any additional comments or opinions about the 2 different options?

Finally, some questions about you!

We understand that these questions are personal. However they will help us better understand who our customers are. We would appreciate it if you would answer these questions. We will not publish your personal information in any identifiable way.

17. Where did you live in 2012? (Please check one response)

	<input type="checkbox"/>	DEVELOPED AREA (CITY, TOWN, SUBURB) <u>IN IDAHO</u>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	RURAL AREA <u>IN IDAHO</u>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	DEVELOPED AREA (CITY, TOWN, SUBURB) OUT-OF-STATE	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	RURAL AREA OUT-OF-STATE	

PLEASE CONTINUE WITH Q-19, BELOW.

18. How long have you lived in Idaho? (Please write the number of years.) _____ Years

19. Do you have any physical conditions such as vision or hearing impairment, or any condition that limits your ability to perform activities such as walking, climbing, reaching, lifting, or carrying? (Please check **one**.)

☐ YES

☐ NO

20. Are you: *(Please check **one**.)*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKAN NATIVE | <input type="checkbox"/> HISPANIC OR LATINO / LATINA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ASIAN | <input type="checkbox"/> NATIVE HAWAIIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AFRICAN AMERICAN | <input type="checkbox"/> WHITE |

21. During the 2012 hunting season were you: *(Please check **all** that apply.)*

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYED FULL-TIME | <input type="checkbox"/> RETIRED |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYED PART-TIME | <input type="checkbox"/> HOMEMAKER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STUDENT | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEMPLOYED |

22. Which of the following best describes your gross family income before taxes in 2012:
*(Please check **one**.)*

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$20,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000 – \$119,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20,000 – \$39,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$120,000 – \$139,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$40,000 – \$59,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$140,000 – \$159,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$60,000 – \$79,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$160,000 – \$179,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$80,000 – \$99,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$180,000 or more |

23. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us specifically about Elk hunting in Idaho?

Thank you for your help!